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25X1 [redacted] At lunch today I talked with Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, about our intention to give Ralph Preston, House Appropriations Committee staff, a thorough briefing on the sensitive readout program. Woodruff thought this would be highly desirable, commenting that if Preston had difficulty with this program it could present a real problem. Woodruff said he had provided Preston with all of his background files on the program in an effort to bring him up to speed.

Woodruff also commented in confidence that Tom Scott, Chief Clerk, Senate Appropriations Committee, might decide to retire by the end of this month. If Scott should retire and Woodruff is elevated to his position, this will pose a very real staff problem in connection with the handling of the Defense Subcommittee (and CIA) matters since Woodruff feels it would be out of the question to have the Chief Clerk handle DOD matters in addition to his other responsibilities. At the present time there is no one on the Committee staff who is capable of taking over the work which Woodruff is presently handling.



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